



## *Sr. Bernard Helene McGuire, OSF Professed 1948*

*“The life and passion of a person leaves an imprint on the ether of a place. Love does not remain within the heart; it flows out to build secret tabernacles in a landscape.”* John O’Donahue

Sister Bernard Helene McGuire, OSF, 92, died in Assisi House on Wednesday, August 26. Bernard (Mary Helen) was born in Baltimore. She had been professed for 72 years and ministered primarily in secondary education and parish ministry. Her years in ministry took Bernard to the Dioceses of Baltimore, Trenton, and Philadelphia. She was acknowledged as an excellent teacher. She engaged her students by making difficult scientific knowledge accessible to them. She had a strong command of her classroom without being harsh. Bernard always had an open outlook and a lighthearted spirit. Her students loved her as is evident in the group of alumni from Towson Catholic High School who continue their relationship with her and frequently ask about her well-being. She could teach students at any grade level and assist them in growing intellectually as well as strengthening their moral character. Although science was her forte, in later years Bernard taught math to elementary school students. Her overall skill in teaching was evident when the principal commented on the tremendous improvement in the standardized test scores after one year.

Bernard was also a woman of great faith, a keen intellect, and a sharp sense of humor. She loved to engage in conversations regarding spiritual books and theological concepts. She also enjoyed the beauty of nature and enjoyed spending vacation time in the mountains and lake areas. She enjoyed her friends and loved discussing religious life and its evolution. She was fascinated by people, especially people of various cultures. Bernard was a good listener—especially with anyone who might seek her out with a need to discuss a problem. Her innate sense of calm and gentleness seemed to soften what might have been a tense experience.

Poet John O’Donohue wrote, *“The life and passion of a person leaves an imprint on the ether of a place. Love does not remain within the heart; it flows out to build secret tabernacles in a landscape.”* Bernard, during your years in education as well as in community living, your giftedness and your gentle spirit reflected images of the God whom you served. These are the “imprints” that you left on our lives. As you live now in the realm of a “heaven” that we can only imagine, remember your sisters and inspire us to live as you did—quietly, gently, and with an innate love for those whom we serve.

*Mass of Christian Burial, Assisi House, 11 A.M., Tuesday, September 1 is private.  
Burial in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.*

